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ADDENDUM TO BI-WEEKLY PROPAGANDA GUIDANCE
NUMBER 39

9 May 1960

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235. Downfall of the Old Regime in South Korea

The collapse of the Rhee regime was sparked by nation-wide student demonstrations protesting the repressive measures and the fraudulent election practices used by Rhee's Liberal Party in the 15 March elections. This phase of the regime's repression began in December 1958, when Rhee's Liberal Party forcibly routed opposition Democratic Party National Assemblymen from the Assembly and unanimously passed a National Security Law. Although the law's ostensible purpose was to prevent Communist subversion, the Liberal Party used it to suppress the opposition. April demonstrations began in the southern city of Masan, where students peacefully petitioned the government to correct election abuses. Elements of the National Police answered these petitions with brutality, causing the death of several students. Incensed students in other cities held similar demonstrations. On 19 April, demonstrations in Seoul evolved into a mass protest. Some 150 students were killed by the police before the ROK Army established martial law and put an end to violence by extremist elements among the police. During the period of martial law, no deaths occurred, and order was restored when it became apparent that the Army sympathized with the demands of the demonstrators for new and fair elections, pursuit of democratic practices by government officials, and punishment of those who used violence against the demonstrators. Rhee's cabinet resigned on 21 April. Vice-President elect Yi Ki-pong resigned on 27 April and committed suicide on the 28th. Following Rhee's resignation on 27 April, the National Assembly appointed a caretaker government under the leadership of Foreign Minister Huh Chung which has been accepted by the populace and given responsibility to introduce reforms, establish democratic processes, and prepare for new elections within three months. The demonstration and riots were strictly an internal South Korean affair, and there was no discernible evidence of pro-Communist or anti-United Nations activity.

Pyongyang, Peking and Moscow propagandists, who hopefully bombarded the air-waves with expressions of sympathy for the demonstrators and incitements to violence during the uprising, were forced by the calm acceptance of martial law to shift their propaganda in an effort to exploit further demonstrations. They failed on both counts. The old regime's attempt to monopolize control of the parliament in the Liberal Party and deny free elections carried within it the seeds of its own destruction. It seems likely that the caretaker government will have a difficult time guiding the forces for change which have emerged. The government may have to cope with further demonstrations and demands for faster action while it attempts to establish a viable framework for the new order. The Communists abroad will certainly try to exploit its difficulties. Evidence of understanding and support from other free world countries will be helpful.

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236. Forced Collectivization in East Germany

On 14 April, following three months of intensive effort to force independent farmers to sign statements that they were voluntarily joining collectives, the East German Communist regime announced that it had completed collectivization of all but insignificant strips of agricultural land. The flight of refugee farmers to the West has increased sharply. In April 1960, 15,703 persons escaped from East Germany, of whom approximately 16% were farmers, as opposed to less than 10,000 per month in January and February of whom 5% were farmers. Until this spring the regime had clearly manifested its reluctance to meddle with the farmers at a time when the harvests were still inadequate. Ulbricht himself has admitted that the campaign - which could certainly not be justified on economic grounds - is a "necessary political act in view of the summit conference." In other words, the East German regime will use the fact of almost total collectivization as further evidence of the existence of a separate German state with specific "socialist" characteristics. Collectivization, which, legally, cannot be imposed, has been enforced, in practice, by a mass campaign of blackmail and harassment. The operation begins with the "occupation" of a village by a group of party activists who call upon the private farmer to turn over his possessions and services to the local collective. Recalcitrants are subjected to the techniques of "patient persuasion", i.e., a period of continuous indoctrination and interrogation during which the farmer is exhorted, threatened, accused, cajoled and intimidated until he is mentally and physically exhausted. Such relentless methods apparently have achieved the desired result. They have also produced many cases of suicide. Since 1953, the economic position of East Germany has improved considerably. A more prosperous and stable East German economy, arrived at through moderate and gradual means, could, by cutting down the disparity in standard of living between East and West Germany, act as a politically stabilizing factor in Central Europe. However, Ulbricht's current repressive tactics may well retard - rather than promote - such a development.

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237. Exporting the Cuban "Revolution"

The initiation and support of subversive activities abroad have been characteristic of the Castro regime since its inauguration in December 1958. These activities often take the overt form of "volunteer forces in defense of Cuba", and "friendship and cultural societies" designed to "win friends for Cuba", "protect the gains and fulfillment of the Revolution", and "overthrow existing dictatorships". However, the familiar exhortions to throw off the yoke of Yankee imperialism and colonialism, to "develop unity among the underdeveloped nations which will result in the "neutrality and independence" of Latin America smack loudly of the Communist "liberation movement" strategy so effectively used in the underdeveloped areas in Asia and presently being inaugurated in Latin America by coordinated Communist forces and the Castro regime. Covert activities range from early 1959 invasion attempts against Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Panama to support of movements in various countries intended to influence domestic political developments and/or to subvert their governments. Efforts include a terrain study for revolutionary planning in Peru, delivery of arms and funds to a dissident group in Ecuador, support of a "revolutionary" group in Colombia, anti-government rallies in Honduras, aiding anti-U.S. demonstrations in Panama, and the covert purchase and importation of arms to Cuba to "defend Cuba from the invader". Most Cuban Embassy personnel have quickly identified themselves with leftist, Communist or anti-government elements in the countries to which they are accredited, have supported pro-Castro, anti-U.S. rallies and have been extremely active in the fields of student and labor activities. To an increasing degree the Cuban Government is working through, with or parallel to Communist parties in various countries through recently created Cuban organizations or existing front groups. Cuban propaganda often conflicts with local interests as demonstrated by the recall or expulsion of Cuban Ambassadors in El Salvador, Venezuela and the recent severance of diplomatic relations with Cuba by Guatemala on 28 April. Other vehicles for conducting subversive activities include the Cuban armed forces and intelligence services, existing fronts, recently-purchased local media assets, roving emissaries, bloc diplomatic personnel and the important Cuban controlled news agency Prensa Latina which has offices in 16 Latin American countries and Jamaica. PL is closely affiliated with bloc official organs TASS and New China News Agency (NCNA), etc., and often puts its source and date line on stories originating from TASS and other agencies. Cuba's vicious Radio Mambi, the main extremist voice of the Castro Government and other controlled media in Cuba provide outlets for propaganda. As put in a statement by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on May 4, 1960: "The disruptive activities of the Cuban Government can no longer be lightly dismissed as outbursts of inexperienced, youthful leaders swept by the upsurge of economic nationalism. They have all the earmarks of a well planned strategy designed to make Cuba an advanced outpost of the Soviet Union's drive to infiltrate the New World." Not only are the Cuban people being deprived of the legitimate rewards of their revolution, but their leaders are exporting subversion, not revolution, through Latin America.

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238. Dissillusionment Students in Communist Countries

Students from outside the Communist bloc attending Moscow University and similar institutions in the Soviet-dominated world are becoming increasingly disillusioned by their experiences and are finding that all is not as it was purported to be before they left home. There are about 1,000 non-bloc foreign students in the USSR. (The total number of foreign students in the US and UK alone is approximately one hundred times as large.) Of these, the largest numbers come from Iraq, the UAR, Indonesia, and Italy. More and more students are complaining and, in some instances, have returned home in disgust. Among the chief causes of complaint are: Living Conditions: Crowded accommodation, sub-standard sanitary facilities, food that is unappetizing and with which the student is not familiar, the harsh winter climate, the oppressive atmosphere of an authoritarian regime, the low standard of living, inadequate medical supplies and facilities, and the often embittered realization that the moneys supplied (as well as housing and living conditions generally) are not at all what they were purported to be in the informational material which induced the student to go there. Restriction, Regimentation, and Controls: Travel difficulties, censorship, withholding of mail, isolation from the general body of students, interference with private life and surveillance by members of the Komsomol brigades, discrimination, colored students of either sex who have found themselves (and/or their new-found friends) in difficulties because of their friendship with Soviet students. (Note: The proposed new Friendship University at Moscow should make some of these controls very much easier for the Communist regime.) Academic Shortcomings: Failure to be given access to materials needed by the student in his or her field of interest, sometimes for alleged security reasons, extraneous and arbitrary insertion of pro-Communist and anti-Western politics into courses of study, the low professional level (in Communist China particularly) of the courses provided. The UAR has already recalled many of its students. An Indian student this year reported that every Indian student in Moscow had asked to be allowed to go back. Even students from Eastern Europe, who had been deluded by fraudulent tales to regard the USSR as the world's most advanced country, have expressed their shock after finding it in many ways more primitive than their own homelands.

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